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Monday, August 18, 1953
No. 27, 1953 - 27th 27, 1953

COLE SHISHAKLY, Syria's Dictator, has defined his attitude towards Israel with a clarity and finality which leave nothing more to be said.

SYRIAN THREATS

East, he claims, for both Jews and Arabs; he has faith in the ultimate victory of the Arabs. The Dictator uses no conditionals, or reference to the "expansionist nature" of Zionism as often appealed to by his apologists in the West; here in his speech modern Arab nationalism takes on its simplest and basic form. Whatever Israel does it should be destroyed. Nothing is missing except the date hostilities are to commence.

His explicitness surely poses certain questions to the United Nations and to the Great Powers. At MAC's, and other UN deliberations on the Palestine Problem, the Syrian delegates make accusations against Israel and deny Israeli accusations against them. These protestations of innocence should now be examined in the light of this statement of policy.

The powers who still hope for Syria's accession to the Middle East Defence Organisation and who in one case at least are supplying Shishakly with arms, should ask themselves if his condition for collaboration, Arab "satisfaction," can ever be achieved. The British raised the issue of their French allies to give Syria independence, the Americans have offered Shishakly economic aid, the French have helped him re-equip his army; yet new minimum demand for "satisfaction" is the destruction of the State of Israel.

Furthermore, if the Western powers are to impress the world with their sincere disapproval of aggression and aggressive behaviour, they cannot allow Western arms to reach this self-confessed planner of aggression.

WITHOUT the record of the trial it is impossible to form an opinion of the extent to which Philip Auerbach was guilty — if at all — of the offences for which he was sentenced to prison by a Bavarian court. His suicide has only made perplexity more perplexing, by adding ultimate tragedy to a case which had occupied public opinion for several years. That Auerbach, however misguided he may have been in his practices, could claim certain achievements, was conceded by the President of the Supreme Finance Court of Western Germany.

LESSONS OF A TRIAL

A mental breakdown can perhaps explain the final step; for if Auerbach was firmly convinced of his innocence he might have been expected to fight to the end for his rehabilitation, as others had done before him. But it is no reflection on one who, from all accounts, was highly strung and egocentric, that he did not have the moral strength of a Dreyfus.

Three of the five judges were "Nazis." A minor incident during the trial is now without significance. When one of the witnesses remarked that between 1945 and 1947 a man risked his life by accepting public office, the President of the Court interjected: "A good thing I was then engaged in wood-cutting" — the inference being that, as a "former" party member, he had chosen the safer course. In its editorial comment, a serious German paper wrote that behind this incident, and indeed back of the whole trial, was the guilt-complex of a whole German generation which, with the exception of children and active resistance fighters, was involved in the Nazi crimes. This, the paper adds, explains the secret hope that the Auerbach trial might justify, not of course the extermination and torture of the Jews, but at least membership in the party and non-resistance.

Almost exactly thirty years ago, another German Jew, Walter Rathenau, was murdered by Nazi gangsters, soon after he had signed, as Minister of the Reich, the Treaty of Rapallo. He fell victim of an illusion which had taken root during the 19th century and was based on the firm and sincere belief in German-Jewish symbiosis. The ghosts of Rathenau and of the hundreds of thousands who shared his fate after 1933 will warn those who, like Philip Auerbach, still seem to believe that, in this generation, a Jew and self-respecting Jewish community can arise in Germany from the ruins of yesterday.

PEACE OFFER COULD SPLIT ATLANTIC ALLIANCE West Must Match Kremlin's Terms

By SEBASTIAN HAFNER

LONDON.

THE message which Signor Nenni, the Italian Left-wing Socialist leader, has brought back from his recent visit to Moscow is of great general interest. Signor Nenni said he was convinced that the last thing Russia wanted was war. All Russia wanted was to safeguard the position she had attained after the last war. Once that position was firmly recognized, "together with the revolution in China," the basis for a compromise with the West could be found. To begin with, Italy might recognize that position by concluding a treaty of non-aggression with Russia.

Here is the outline of a new Russian foreign policy: the offer to end the cold war by a political settlement, based, apparently, on the existing military and political division of Europe. It does not look as if the West is well-prepared to meet such an offer with a clear, thought-out and united policy of its own.

Mighty Armaments

Obviously, what the Kremlin told Signor Nenni need not be the whole truth about its plans and aims. If Signor Nenni got the impression that Russia does not want war, this is no conclusive proof that Russia really does "not want war." The enormous Russian armament offer remains a fact. The memories of expansive and aggressive Russian policies are still fresh. Even if Russian foreign policy should at the moment really think in terms of diplomacy, negotiations and settlements rather than in terms of aggression and war, that does not exclude the possibility that tomorrow the line might change again.

Still, for the moment Signor Nenni's assertions have a ring of plausibility. The balance of military power in Europe has during the last 18 months been slowly changing in Russia's disfavour and promises to go on doing so in the next 18 months, even with the recent slowing up in the pace of Western rearmament. If Russia wanted to make aggressive war, the best time for her to do so would have been in 1951 or 1952, when her military superiority was still far more marked than it is likely to be in 1953 or 1954. The fact that Russia has made no aggressive move

this summer suggests that she has really given up hopes of further forcible expansion in Europe in the immediate future. If so, it would be natural for her to concentrate on the next-best aim: namely, to negotiate what she has gained, get these gains internationally recognized, and bring Western rearmament and the movement towards Western unity to a stop through a peace settlement which induced a feeling of security in the West. This is exactly what Signor Nenni indicates.

Question of Terms

A negotiated peace settlement of the Second World War is, of course, also the aim of the West. The question is: On what terms can such a settlement be concluded? Hitherto, neither Russia nor the West have been explicit about their terms. Now Russia gives, for the first time, an indication of the terms on which she might be prepared to settle: "recognition of the position she has attained." In other words, she wants the present de facto position in Europe turned into the legally accepted status quo; the temporary military demarcation lines agreed at Yalta turned into permanent political frontiers; and her domination of Eastern and Central Europe legalized.

If this proposition should take on more definite form, it will force the West to formulate its own conditions of peace, too. At the moment, it would be very hard to say what exactly these conditions are. Nor is it likely that the existing conceptions of a possible settlement are the same in every country of the West.

It is generally believed that American ideas of a European settlement are based on a restoration of the political independence of the countries of Eastern and Central Europe which are at present Russian satellites. And one aspect of the Western rearmament programme is, indeed, the hope that the building up of superior strength in the West would make a Russian retreat from Eastern and Central Europe for the sake of a peaceful settlement appear advisable to Russia herself.

But this aim has never been made explicit, and it is not clear to what extent it is generally shared. In France — for which the present division of Europe (and Germany) has certain attractions — or in even Britain prepared

to insist on a Russian withdrawal from Eastern Europe when Russia refuses such a retreat, but offers an end to the cold war on the basis of the existing position?

Moreover, rearmament, as we are witnessing just now, is a painful effort. If the immediate danger of Russian aggression is seen to recede, will the electorates of the European democracies — or even those of the United States itself — be prepared to maintain that effort for the sake of greater diplomatic bargaining strength abroad? If Russia offers peace on the basis of the present military lines in Europe, may we not split the Western alliance wide open between those who would accept such an offer and those who would refuse it and insist on the liberation of Eastern Europe?

No "Super Government"

The interests of "the West" as a whole have, so far, no organ and no representation. Even the North Atlantic Treaty Council, as now composed, is only a clearing house of national governmental policies, not a super-Government. The danger is therefore unmistakable that a Russian diplomatic offensive on the lines indicated by Signor Nenni might show up the lack of any general "Western" policy and the divergence of individual interests among those nations which are today held together in the main only by a common fear of Russian aggression. Signor Nenni's declaration suggests that the real testing-ground for the cohesion of the Atlantic alliance may now have arrived.

(OFNS)

Readers' Letters

BETTER PLANNING

To the Editor of THE POST

Sir, — I like the majority of the other spectators who attended the Hazamir Street Festival, left the Ramat Gan Stadium before the programme was completed. We were disgusted with the performance modestly called The First Jewish World Choir. The singing was excellent, we gathered that from the bus we heard of it, and the enthusiasm of the chorists was wonderful to watch, but this event, which could have been the forerunner of a gala annual event, proved to be dull and drab. This was due to the "planning" of whoever directed the festival.

In Mexico, the tourist trade is called "the industry without chimneys." It is the largest source of foreign currency for that Latin American country. The tourist trade of Mexico, as in most other tourist-minded countries, is prompted through a series of special events such as Hazamir. "Well planned, well executed programmes, have helped build and maintain their lucrative tourist industry. It is a pity that we in Israel cannot do the same."

Israel has a great tourist potential, but it is common knowledge that the tourist trade is falling off. The old line Zionists from abroad have already visited us, seen their relatives and departed. We fail to attract other tourists to drop in for a tour of the country, and after a lengthy stay, return home and enthusiastically advise their friends that a visit to the new State of Israel is worthwhile. It is high time the Ministry of Commerce and Industry created a board of civic-minded volunteers who are capable of planning, and directing a programme that will attract tourists. There is a multitude of talent to do this job among the musicians, actors, journalists, artists and businessmen — not only the hotel keepers and travel agents.

Yours etc., GERRY MALMED

Tel Aviv, August 11.

ROVING CAMERA

TO take home Israel, look

stock and barrel, is the purpose of a seven week visit which Mr. A. Tyler Hull has just started. He has allowed himself seven weeks and 20,000 feet of film, 3,000 of it coloured, to do the job. Mr. Tyler came from a year-long film lecture tour and will start his lectures again when he finishes filming here.

Actually, his specialty is wild life, but he doesn't expect to find much of that here. Carrying a heavy tin case, containing one still and three cine cameras, films and photographic equipment, and a heavy tripod, Mr. Tyler has behind him two expeditions to Mongolia, three to Indo-China and one to Tibet, filming wild life, not counting the pictorial record of the China-Japan war which he filmed from 1937 to 1941. He holds the National Headlines Award for his "courageous and outstanding" photography in the Far East, is a fellow of several photographic societies, and motion picture consultant to the U.S. Defense Department.

In the U.S. he produces shorts on wild life for the Forest Service and for TV, to educate the public to preserve national forests and wild life. After the War, he was loaned by the U.S. to the South Korean Government for four years as adviser on educational films.

One criticism he has of Israel films is that they show too much of people arriving and then sitting in the camps. He wants to see and film the people at work.

YACOV FRIEDLER

SIGHT-SEEING WITHOUT SITES

SOME days ago, emerging

from a much more modest conveyance, I had the possibility to inspect, with humble respect, these veritable thunderbolts of the Road, our new red tourist buses. Figure 1, given by the proud drivers, I accepted cum græto assit. Still, even after some sceptical deductions, sums remained that constitute tremendous dollar investments to a poor man's mind.

An inveterate rambler must be forgiven if he does some day-dreaming about the things that, with a fraction of these dollars spent on sightseeing, could be done for the sites of the country. We must face the fact that practically all our ancient monuments are in a state of disintegration. Should funds for the preservation of Israel's historical ruins not soon be granted, sightseeing in the country will have to be limited to settlements, water pipes and factories.

Utter Neglect

Considering the utter neglect of such places as the Necropolis of Bet Shearim or the Tell of Megiddo, the conclusion is unavoidable that the value of ancient monuments has not been recognized in this country, either by the authorities or by the tourist trade. Otherwise, our guides would be deeply ashamed to show world famous ruins to tourists, conveyed to the spot in most luxurious coaches, as dirty, overgrown heaps of rubbish.

The kibbutzim, who in mandatory days guarded the monuments of their vicinity with jealous watchfulness, have seemingly lost all interest in such unrewarding occupations. Moreover, reliable

elderly immigrants are everywhere to be found who could be employed as antiquity guards. Moreover, I firmly believe that the preservation of ancient monuments is as important as tree-planting. Trees, after all, which are not planted in 1953, can be planted in 1955. But crumbling masonry, disintegrating mosaics, painted tombs that are not cared for in 1953 will be completely lost in another year.

Things have come to the point where our Antiquities Department is rightly wary of starting new excavations because there is no possibility of preserving the finds. To leave underground what is safely underground is our archaeologists' justified policy in a time that cannot afford protection to the re-discovered relics of the past. All this could be changed if organizations able to find tens of thousands of dollars for sightseeing coaches, could be prevailed upon to find a few thousands of pounds for Israel's sightseeing sites.

TA. F. M.

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